



# CARY LODGE #198, A.F. & A.M. TRESTLE BOARD



December, 2008

## *From The East*



As I bid farewell to my time in the East, I would like to thank the membership once again for giving me the opportunity to occupy the Masters chair for 2008. It has been a wonderful character building experience for me that I will forever look upon with a smile.

This year has brought us a plethora of experiences to embrace. We have had a number of speakers in to entertain and inform us about a number of topics. New members learned of some appendant bodies, what they do and how they do it along with membership details. We learned some history of the town of Cary as well as our very own lodge. We learned what "Making Good Men Better" is all about. We learned about the mural on the wall at the Grand Lodge and its history which exposes much of the history of Masonry in North Carolina. We learned about the Transition to Digital TV and how it would affect us. We learned about famous Masons, both in North Carolina and throughout the country.

We have supported our Veterans through donation and participation in causes that benefit them. As a Veteran, I can take extreme pride in those efforts. The sacrifices of these men and woman deserve our utmost support

and praise. I hope to see these efforts continue and expand as they are much needed.

We have ventured into our community a little further this year, again through donation and participation. We were very involved in Cary Band Day this year as we acted as band hosts and performed traffic control. We participated in our first parade. We had a banner made to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as Cary Band Day's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This banner went through the parade and hung proudly on the fence throughout the band competition. I believe that our participation in the community is fundamental to the success of our lodge and so I hope to see our involvement continue to grow in the years to come.

We tried our hand at a new fundraiser which generated charity for our own Masonic Foundation. Our barbecues were successful and raised a fair amount of money for our charities. We helped a lodge with the purchase of an HVAC system that was much needed. We were also able to assist some brothers who need help. All in all, charity was much alive in Cary Lodge this year and we can take pride in that. It's a true blessing to be able to help as many people as Cary Lodge has been able to do.

We have an ongoing project in the pursuit of recording our history in book form. This history committee has worked tirelessly throughout the year to further that cause. It has brought us

a presentation of our lodge's history. This alone was no small endeavor. It took hours of research and preparation to bring it to fruition. It also has and will generate the gift of a recorded history for future generations to benefit from. It is truly a gem of this year's efforts.

We also have personal markers of this anniversary year that will remind us of this year throughout time, designed and brought forth by a committee formed back in Worshipful Brother Morty Jayson's year as Master. There were two other markers to be generated this year which I hope will see the light of day in the future. One is a time capsule and the other a statue. Both projects have seen their own difficulties through the year and hopefully the projects will continue until completion.

Hopefully, I have left Cary Lodge better in some way than I found it, as that is the goal most leaders aspire to. I know that I am a better person than when I started and for that I owe all of you. While I seriously doubt that any Master accomplishes all he sets out to, I do believe we have had a successful year. This is due to the efforts of all of you and you should take pride in your accomplishments this year. As I pass the mantle of leadership over to Mike Sibley, I would ask that you give him the same level of support and encouragement that you gave me. I could not have asked for a better Senior Warden and I know that he will serve you well as your Master for 2009.

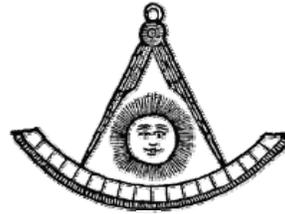
Jim Hetherington

S&F  
Master – 2008

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**REMEMBER: Pay your dues!**

## *Past Masters' Night*



Past Masters Night is an event that this lodge has had for probably close to 150 years. Like most events that are performed yearly, sometimes the meaning behind them can get lost or dulled over time. I wanted to make sure that this year that did not happen with this event. We have a number of new masons as well and they might like to know why we do this. Why do we have Past Master's Night? Why are we honoring these men? Well, I can tell you from my own personal view why I think that we honor these men so that is what I will do.

When I joined Cary Lodge through the 3 degrees of Masonry, my only experience with lodges was Cary Lodge. This lodge was my benchmark of what a lodge is supposed to be. Once I started training to be a lecturer and my coach took me around to all the other lodges in the district and then some, I began to see that there were a number of lodges that were struggling and that Cary Lodge by my own estimates (and others) was pretty darn successful. I was more than a bit perplexed as to why this was the case. These lodges all had good men as members and they were in growing communities. What could be the reason for this? I thought, well, maybe Cary was growing much more than the other communities. But that was not the case really. Plus we had members that lived in these other communities. Cary Lodge does have a little bit of money... could that be it? I did not know that when I joined and it certainly is not what kept me here. As I searched for answers, I really could not find anything that was a major

difference between these lodges and our own that would satisfy the problem. Then I noticed something. Cary Lodge has 26 living Past Masters and over half of them are active members of this lodge. Now this was beginning to shed some light on the situation. Let's examine that a little.



Past Masters are undoubtedly the most vocal group in meetings. Not the only group, but by and far the most prevalent. They fill many rolls in our lodge, committee members, board of trustees, treasurer, secretary, lecturers, coaches, mentors and they even cook and do dishes at times. They take care of our web page and our member database. They gather our degree teams for our degrees. They hold leading roles in our fundraisers. They keep in contact with our members. As you can see, they do a lot. Like Worshipful Brother Derek Love told us of the advice he received from Past Master's last year, I too have had the benefit of much advice from our PM's. When you think about the people we look up to as our mentors in this lodge, who comes to mind. Past Masters? They are our guideposts in our travels through masonry. I am reminded of going bowling with my kids a number of years back. In order for the children to experience some level of success, we had the bowling alley put down the bumper guards on the lane they were using. We (parents) have been bowling a number of times and had the experience necessary to

Past Masters are undoubtedly the most vocal group in meetings. Not the only group, but by and far the most prevalent. They fill many rolls in our lodge, committee members, board of trustees,

achieve some success. However, the kids did not. Our Past Masters are sort of like that. They have that experience that allows them to achieve that elusive success we are all looking for. See they have been there and done that, so to speak. With their guidance we don't throw those nasty gutter balls that are possible on the trail of success. Could we survive without them? Possibly, but I think the picture would not be pretty. Certainly the trail to success would be an extremely bumpy one. And here is the kicker.

These men have for the most part done everything that can be done in the lodge. Yet, they keep coming back and giving selflessly of their time and experience for the betterment of the lodge. What happens to people generally that are not appreciated for their efforts? They leave for the most part. Well we do not want them to leave naturally. They undoubtedly are one of the pillars of success of the lodge and one of the most valuable assets the lodge has. We all appreciate and value their contribution to the lodge, yet through the year, without Past Master's Night, we would have no direct way to show them our appreciation as a group. So, this is the one night of the year that we can show them our appreciation for their efforts throughout the year. So, if you have an opportunity, reach out and grab the hand of one of these gentleman and pat them on the back and thank them for their service to Cary Lodge. It is truly a valuable gem we have in our Past Masters and we need to let them know it.



These are our living Past Masters and the years they served as Master.

Derek J. Love	- 2007	John D. Graham	-1991
Gerald S. Edwards	-2006	Donald E. Ellers	-1990
Morty Jason	-2005	Benton W. Oakes, Jr.	-1989
W. Watts Ward	-2004	Alvin M. Wade	-1984
Kevin C. Hall	-2003	John T. Beal	-1983
Thomas C. Stephenson, Sr.	-2002	William M. Medford	-1981
Charles F. English	-2000	Sam P. Banks	-1979
Walter R. Highsmith, Jr.	-1999	Francis A. Dunbar	-1975
Jeffery M. Daniel	-1998	Douglas A. Eaker	-1972
Charles W. Early	-1996	Woodley B. Kennedy	-1971
J. Elbert Hockaday	-1995	William N. Hilliard	-1964
Austin Rich, Jr.	-1994	Norwood N. Northcutt	-1957
David G. Winkler	-1992	W. Bickett Webb	-1956

I would like to thank these gentlemen personally for their service to Cary Lodge 198. There is no doubt in my mind that they played a large part in the current success that Cary Lodge is known for.

Jim Hetherington

Master - 2008

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### *Prince Hall Recognition Ceremony*

On Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina A.F. & A.M. met with the Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina for the signing of mutual recognition. This historic occasion was held at the old State



Capitol Building in downtown Raleigh. The event was well-attended, and several members of Cary Lodge attended and served as ushers for the event. Several members from the media were present and the event even yielded some positive press for our organization.

### *Election & Installation of Officers*

The election of officers for the year 2009 was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The new officers for the year 2009 are as follows:

WM: Mike Sibley

SW: Bruce Koebler

JW: Jeff Scott

Treasurer: Ben Oakes

Secretary: Derek Love

SD: Ludwik Wodka

JD: Bryan Jones

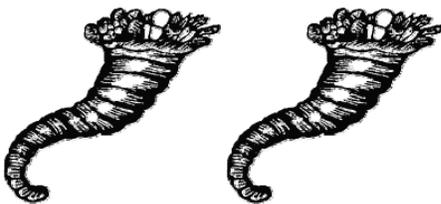
Stewards: Aaron Harris & Sonny Bjork

Chaplain: Ted Long

Tyler: Tripp Macolly

Other elected members include Jim Hetherington to the Board of Trustees and Ludwik Wodka to the Finance Committee

Installation will take place on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Officers are required to be present at 6:30pm to open the lodge



### *Ladies Night & Awards Night Banquet*

Saturday, December 6 was the annual Ladies Night and Awards Night. Dinner was hosted by our Chef's Crew, and the History Committee gave a presentation on the history of Cary Lodge, marking its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Awards were as follows:

#### **Distinguished Service Awards (Plaque)**

Carson A. Clippard, Jr.  
Woodley B. Kennedy  
Benton W. Oakes, Jr

#### **Mason of the Year (Plaque)**

Ludwik J. Wodka

#### **Certificates of Excellence**

Aaron W. Harris  
Jeff B. Scott  
Thomas E. Long  
C. Bryan Jones  
Stephen A. Lewis  
Donald E. Ellers

#### **Certificates of Appreciation**

Lindsay H. Hodges  
Horace P. Hodges, Jr.  
Joseph R. Hodges

**Woodley Kennedy** also received a Broken Column Statue to honor his Outstanding Character and was acknowledged as the genesis of the chain of lectures that we are so fortunate to have along with his contributions to the excellence in the performance of our ritual. We have the most Lecturers in the state for any lodge.

Brothers Ben Oakes, Sam Barnhill and Luther Renfro were given gift certificates to the Angus Barn restaurant in acknowledgement of their services on Chef's Crew.

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*Masonic Vocabulary: "...even Comets perform their stupendous revolutions"*

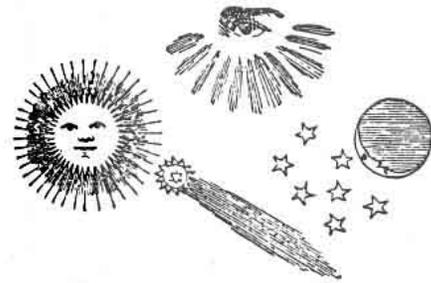
This passing phrase was originally penned by William Preston in his book *Illustrations of Masonry* In 1772. However, when this was written, this reference would have been easily understood by the people at the time.

The notion that the sun was at the center of the solar system had been in the public consciousness for only about 150 years, and at this time, the farthest known object in space was the planet Saturn.

When Edmund Halley demonstrated that the comet of 1680 was in fact the same comet that was seen in 1605, he predicted that this comet

would return again in 1754. But what was perhaps most astounding was that the comet's orbit, at its farthest point from the sun, stretched out to almost *three times* the distance from the sun as Saturn! This was an amazing statement for the time, and was most likely mentioned in Preston's lecture to signify the very farthest known reaches of space.

It may be worthy of note that Edmund Halley, a member of the Royal Society, was in the company of many early Freemasons, including Elias Ashmole and Sir Christopher Wren.



# December 2008



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Stated Communication Dinner- 6:30pm	2	3	4	5 York Rite	6 <b>Awards night and Ladies Night</b> 5:30pm
7	8	9	10	11 Scottish Rite	12 <b>York Rite Christmas Observance</b> 7:00pm	13 <b>Installation of Officers</b> 7:00pm
14	15 Stated Communication Dinner- 6:30pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>			